

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXX NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2022

EBARC Meetings

February 11, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
"Contesting and Logging"
Check your email for Zoom link



The Executive Board meets monthly before each general meeting. For the date, time, & location, contact officers at EBHam.office@gmail.com.

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The Blown Fuse is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is free to its members. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

Deadline for Mar. issue: Tues., Feb. 22nd

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to aa6xz@earthlink.net.

February 11th EBARC Meeting

At February's meeting, we'll talk about contesting and logging. Potential speakers have been contacted, but we haven't received timely replies. Watch your email for updates.

The general EBARC meeting will again be held as a virtual Zoom meeting only. The Zoom link will be sent via email and be posted on ebarc.org. We hope you join us! Because of the pandemic, future meetings for (TBD) more months will also be held via Zoom.

North American QSO Party

Saturday, Jan 22nd, President Chris Harwood held a great small gathering at his QTH, moving the shack outdoors so EBARC members and neighbors could join the *North American QSO Party*, make contacts, and learn about ham radio! W6CUS made 32 contacts, about half of those made by Lorraine, KN6CRT! Operations and logging were done using Raspberry Pi. Averting a crisis, Chris even repaired the radio halfway through, successfully saving the day!



Winter Field Day

We will be setting up a small station to operate for a portion of Winter Field Day! EBARC (W6CUS) will be set up on Saturday, January 29, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. PST near the *Rosie the Riveter National Park* on the Richmond shoreline. All are welcome to come operate!

While we aren't focused on the contest aspect, there IS a "home" category this year for those wishing to join the fun from their QTH! The entire event is from 11 a.m. PST on Saturday until 11 a.m. PST on Sunday.

More Righting Rules for Editors

Cut out commas, that are, not necessary.

Take care to use you're words appropriately.

Don't overuse exclamation marks!!!!

Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.

Many thanks to Michael McMillan, K6MCM, for preafrooding this month's *Blown Fuse*.

Treasurer's Report

December 2021

Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treas.

DECEMBER GENERAL FUND¹

Beginning Balance\$11,756.65

Income:

Earned Interest\$0.04

2022 Dues.....460.00

Total General Income:\$460.04

Disbursements:

Battery\$28.48

Storage Locker.....103.00

CA Secretary of State filing5.00

Total General Disbursements\$136.48

Ending Balance\$12,080.21

(portion as petty cash\$40.00)

(portion as a US Bank CD ...\$5,000.00)

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships

January 2022 General Minutes

Todd Teachout, W8BIK, Secretary

The EBARC General meeting was held January 14, 2022, virtually, via the Zoom internet conferencing application as a result of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. 17 people attended. The President called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

A Zoom meeting invite with agenda was distributed via e-mail on 1/14/2022.

The President, Chris, welcomed attendees.

Officer Reports:

President: Chris Harwood mentioned that he does not know what he is doing, implying that attendees need to be tolerant and understanding as he learns how to be club President.

Secretary: Todd Teachout reported that the draft December 2021 EBARC general meeting minutes were published in the January 2022 *Blown Fuse* newsletter. He reported receiving no correction requests. He recommended and motioned that the group approve the minutes. Audrey Nieman seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by affirmation.

Treasurer: Audrey Nieman reported that in October the club earned \$0.04 interest on deposits. The club had revenue from membership renewal payments and interest. The club had expenses for storage space rental, shelving acquired for use in the storage space and office supplies and postage for the election/membership renewal effort. The ending fund balance is \$11,756.65 (of which \$5,000 is held in a Certificate of Deposit). Audrey encouraged those members who have not yet renewed to do so.

2nd VP-Membership/Newsletter/VE Testing: Sharon Primbsch reported the deadline for articles for the February 2022 *Blown Fuse* newsletter is noted in the newsletter (January 25th). As of today 45 members renewed their membership in EBARC. 21 memberships are delinquent. She thanked Alan Biocca for being a backup for the EBHam account. Due to pandemic restrictions the January, VE radio operator licensing test session will not occur. A pandemic-safe venue for doing inside sit-down tests has not yet been located. She reported that at the Executive Committee meeting earlier in the evening, discussions were made about accepting payments from online sources as well as efforts to do elections online. Officers are looking into these approaches to club administrative processes.

1st VP Programs: Katie Carney reported that Winter Field Day 2022 is scheduled to occur January 29-30, 2022. She suggested doing it similar to a *Summits on the Air* or *Parks on the Air* event, except the repository of results will be the Winter Field Day group. The Winter Field Day group is organized to provide

operators an opportunity to operate in non-ideal weather and daylight conditions. The event provides an opportunity to keep radio operating skills sharp, which is crucial during emergency situations. Katie advised anyone interested to contact her. Karen Fenton expressed interest. Katie directed all people interested to contact her via EBHam.Office@gmail.com.

The topic for tonight will be a roundtable discussion about the future of EBARC. She indicated that after tonight's discussion she will finalize a survey and try to send it out on Tuesday 1/18/2022, with hopes of discussing the results in February.

Old Business - Not discussed

Pending Issue: In-person meeting place.

New Business - See Programs, below.

Announcements:

Chris Harwood reported that on January 15th the ARRL will hold the January VHF Contest as well as the North American QSO Party for CW. He encouraged members to participate. He also indicated the VHF Contest can be done with any 2M handy talkie tuned to 146.52 MHz. The January VHF Contest will start at 11:00 a.m. PST (1900 UTC) and finish on at January 16, 2022 at 7:59 p.m. PST January 17, 2022 (0359 UTC). The North American QSO Party CW should appeal to those wanting to exercise their Morse code and keying skills. The NA QSO Party starts at 10:00 a.m. PST January 15, 2022 (1800 UTC) and finishes at 9:59 a.m. PST (0559 UTC January 16, 2022).

Karen Fenton mentioned that Lillian Fowler, the wife of longtime valued member Ken Fowler, passed away on January 2, 2022. An obituary in the *East Bay Times* was issued on January 11, 2022. A memorial service will be held January 15, 2022 at the Amador Memorial Cemetery in Pioneer, CA. Donations in Lillian's name can be made to the Wounded

Warriors Fund. More info at <https://www.danerimortuary.com/obituary/lillian-fowler>

Karen Fenton made a motion that the club make a donation of \$50 to the Wounded Warrior Fund in Lillian's name. Jan Kuhl seconded the motion. Some discussion occurred about the amount. Motion was passed. Members were encouraged to make additional contributions in respect of all that Ken Fowler has done for the club over the years.

Program

Chris and Katie asked attendees, "What do we want for EBARC?"

Given the Covid omicron surge, the current guess is that it will be safe to meet in person indoors in about three months (April 2022).

The default club activities are Field Day (this year on June 25/26, 2022) and EmComm activities. Our hobby is much broader in scope. Wouldn't it be fun and pleasantly challenging to explore other activities related to amateur radio?

Mini SOTA/POTA: While face-to-face club meetings cannot happen now, maybe it's time to organize a local Summits on the Air and Parks on the Air type event; perhaps going to local summit like Vollmer Peak or Mt. Diablo. While the formal POTA program is limited to federal parks, there is little reason why state and local parks can't be considered for a local version. Chris indicated he hopes to operate as the club station W6CUS in at least two contests other than Field Day this year. He hopes other members will join him. For those members who can't join in on the activity, Chris hopes they will listen and document their contact with the club station (W6CUS) in their logs. Guest operators will be welcomed and encouraged to come out and join the fun.

Field Trips: The club did a field trip to station KPH in Inverness, the Historic Maritime Radio in 2019 or so. Other trips could be arranged. Members suggested locations such as the Hornet aircraft carrier in Alameda, the Red Oak liberty ship in Richmond, Stanford University and Cal (which have some resources of interest to Amateur Radio license holders). Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield may also be open to hams.

Lorraine Schnurr suggested reaching out to Contra Costa Community College. The college just underwent a major 72 million dollar renovation. It has an operational planetarium and may have antennas awaiting use by students in the STEM curricula. Collaborating could provide opportunities to inform younger people about ham radio, and it might result in new young members joining the club.

Chabot Space and Science Center was again mentioned as a site for visiting and for holding special events. It is being considered for a possible special event, if the center is interested and if the club is organized enough to submit a formal proposal.

Other Program Topics: Sharon brought up the programs topics list that Martin Rothfield created in 2019. Only a few of the topics on that list made it to club presentations: Sharon located the list (stored on EBHam) and read part of it to the group:

- Radio theory; sunspots, propagation
- Circuits & Software Defined Radio
- Antennas - design and building
- Digital modes
- Shack design and building
- Grounding
- Homebrew (Arduino, Raspberry Pi, kits)
- Working satellites
- Gear for the shack (radios, test equipment)
- Putting up a tower
- Working beyond 50 MHz

- Vintage gear and tubes
- Renewable power

Some discussion occurred about installing ground rods and renewable power including more consideration for operating carbon-free during Field Day 2022).

Robin Spaulding asked how many members belong to the ARRL. He asked because the ARRL publications: *QST*, *QEX*, *On the Air*, and *Contest Journal*, provide a wealth of topics for future presentation topic consideration. Katie mentioned she'd look into it.

Events/Gatherings/Conferences:

Alan Biocca indicated he's planning on participating in Quartzfest on January 23-29, 2022 in Quartzite, AZ. People dry camp, set up stations, and operate their portable radio stations for a week. The gathering allows operators to interact in multiple ways. It attracts more than 1,000 people.

Todd Teachout mentioned the next QSO Today Conference is scheduled for March 12-13, 2022.

Someone asked if EBARC ever had a table at Pacificon. Nobody present could recall. A table might attract more people to consider joining the club.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m. Next meeting is February 11, 2022.

Please Renew and Update

If you haven't yet renewed EBARC for 2022, you won't be on the new roster or receive this newsletter and the roster! You can send your check to P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. We especially want to know if you have changed your address, phone, email, callsign, or license class.

Future Bay Area Events

- Current Bay Area Public Service Events: See www.ebarc.org, click on “Current Events”, then scroll to “Calendar of Bay Area Ham Radio Public Service Events.”
- EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA sponsor joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio test sessions quarterly at 9 a.m. in the Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (at 16th St.), Oakland. Because of COVID, the 2022 dates have not been set. The

fee is \$15. Candidates must preregister at davidotey@comcast.net or call 510-741-8227.

- East Bay Section ARRL ARES; arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/eb. CoCoCo ACS Training: Details from “DJ” djovida, KJ6DJ, kj6dj@arrl.net, (415) 215-6658, or via RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz. Also see Sheriff Office’s Communications Unit David Nielson, K6CDN, davidnielson@yahoo.com

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$30 for individual membership, \$35 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, send email to ebham.office@gmail.com, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page www.ebarc.org, or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. You can also follow us on Twitter using @w6cus, or on Facebook's "East Bay Amateur Radio Club."

2022 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Chris Harwood, AA6AT, President
 Katie Carney, KN6APB, 1st VP / Program Chair 510-326-3886
 Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 2nd VP / Membership Chair 510-741-8227
 Todd Teachout, W8BIK, Secretary 510-799-6051
 Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treasurer / Finance Chair 510-682-7938

2022 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

Steering Committee: Katie Carney, KN6APB 510-326-3886
Blown Fuse Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ 510-741-8227
 W6CUS Trustee: Chris Harwood, AA6AT
 Webmaster: Chris Harwood, AA6AT

AMATEUR RADIO NETS

NET	DAYS	LOCAL TIME	FREQ, MHZ
"Over the Hill Gang" Breakfast/Commute Net	Mo-Fr	0710 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Contra Costa Com. Club Digital Net (by arrangement)	Tue*	1900 (PL 82.5+)	444.275
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Tue	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
"QRM Net"	Tue	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net	1 st Wed	1200 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net	1 st Wed	1200 (PL 107.2-)	145.490
UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net	1 st Wed	1200 simplex	145.430
UCB ARC (W6BB) Club Net	Wed	1900 (PL 103.5+)	442.275
West Contra Costa EMCOMM Net	Thu	1845 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
KARO/ECHO ARES EMCOMM Net	Thu	~1900 simplex	146.415
NALCO ARES EMCOMM Net	Thu	1915 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
Oakland ARES Emergency Communications Net	Thu	1930 (PL 77-)	146.880
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Thu	1930 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net	Sat	0900 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net	Sat	0915 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net	Sat	0930 (PL 82.5+)	444.275

ACS West CoCoCo: "DJ" djovida, KJ6DJ, kj6dj@arri.net, (415) 215-6658.*
 Frequencies: #1=145.110, #2=147.570s.